Swordquest 2

™

FIREWORLD™

In Earthworld grim, these Twins have fought
Twelve beasts of Zodiac birth,
And mastered thieving as they sought
For Sword of ultimate worth.

Through Fire world's flames they now do rage
While Time its toll does add—
To seven days? A year? An Age?
Who knows, in a world gone mad?

CREATED AND WRITTEN BY:
Roy Thomas & Gerry Conway
VISUAL CONCEPTS AND ART:
George Perez & Dick Giordano
DESIGN:
Neal Pozner
LETTERING:
Adam Kubert
COLORING:
Adrienne Roy
EDITOR:
Dick Giordano

SWORDQUEST, Vol. I, No. 2, published by DC Comics Inc., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, New York 10019. Copyright © 1982 Atari, Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred. ATARI and the ATARI logo are the registered trademarks of Atari, Inc. SWORDQUEST, EARTHWORLD, and FIREWORLD, as well as all characters and associated indicia, are trademarks of Atari, Inc. The DC logo is a registered trademark of DC Comics Inc. Printed in USA
A Warner Communications Company

Jenette Kahn, President and Publisher
Joe Orlando, Vice President, Editorial Director
Karen Berger, Editorial Coordinator
Bob Rozakis, Production Manager
Paul Levitz, Vice President, Operations
Arthur Gutowitz, Treasurer

Swordquest

One moment ago:

THE **SWORD OF ULTIMATE SORCERY,** SOUGHT BY THE SIBLING ADVENTURERS **TORR** AND **TARRA** IN THE UNDER-GROUND KINGDOM CALLED **EARTHWORLD,** VANISHED DOWNWARD IN A SUDDEN **BLINDING, WITHERING BLAZE...**

...LEAVING THE TWO YOUNG AND UNWILLING THIEVES HOLDING MERE **METAL COPIES** OF THE SWORD, AND NOT THE **MYSTIC BLADE** ITSELF...

So naturally, brother and sister have plunged headlong after it!*

Our ghostly *mentors* challenged us to enter the *second world* that lies below--to claim both the *sword* and our own *destinies!*

Well, we've come *this* far--and by the gods, we won't stop *now!*

* As seen in our companion volume "*Earthworld!*"--sold with game one of "*Swordquest.*"

THUS DOES ONE ENDING BECOME A SECOND BEGINNING.

AND IN HIS CASTLE KEEP HIGH ABOVE, THE MALEVOLENT WIZARD KONJURO SMILES.

TORR, YOU MAY THINK I'M *MAD*, UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT A *CHILL* JUST RAN DOWN MY SPINE--

--AS IF, SOMEHOW, WE WERE BEING *WATCHED!*

IT IS A SMILE WITHOUT HUMOR... A SMILE LIKE THE GRIN OF DEATH...

BOOK TWO

FireWorld

...YET A SMILE THAT SWIFTLY FADES, WHEN--

WELL, KONJURO? HAVE YOU *LOCATED* THOSE TWO THIEVING WHELPS YET?

OF COURSE, MY LORD TYRANNUS. THE POWERS OF KONJURO ARE NOT LONG MOCKED...BY ANYONE.

IF THAT WRY COMMENT WAS MEANT FOR YOUR *KING*, WIZARD, BEST KEEP A *CIVIL TONGUE* IN YOUR HEAD.

WHERE *ARE* THEY? HAS YOUR *DEMON* DISPATCHED THEM YET?

ALAS, THEY ARE BEYOND THE REACH OF MY POWERS...FOR THE MOMENT, AT LEAST...

...IN THE PLACE CALLED FIREWORLD, WHICH LIES FAR BENEATH OUR VERY FEET.

AND IS IT AS YOU *SAID*?

ARE THEY INDEED THE *GOLD-HAIRED ONES* WHO, 'TWAS PROPHESIED, WILL CLAIM MY VERY *THRONE*, WITH "*A SWORD SHINING BRIGHTLY AS SUMMER'S SUN*"?

AS YOU CLAIMED THEIR PARENTS' LIVES, AYE, MY KING.

BUT HOW CAN THEY HAVE *ELUDED* ME ALL THESE YEARS--SO THAT I THOUGHT THEM *DEAD FROM INFANCY*?

AFTER YOU SLEW THEIR FATHER, THEIR MOTHER LEAPED TO HER WATERY DEATH HOLDING TWO SWADDLED JARS...

NOT HER NEW-BORN TWINS AS WE THEN IMAGINED.

I HAVE PIERCED THE FUTURE'S VEIL JUST ENOUGH TO LEARN THAT, AND A BIT MORE...

"...FOR WHEN THEY STOLE NEAR MY TOWER THIS NIGHT, INTENT ON ROBBING ME, THEIR THOUGHTS OF VENGEANCE WERE STRONG...

"...SO STRONG THAT THEY HOVERED WRAITH-LIKE IN THE AIR, LONG ENOUGH FOR MY SPELL TO GATHER AND READ THEM, LIKE SO MANY TEA-LEAVES.

"THEY WERE THINKING OF THEIR WARRIOR-FATHER'S DEATH AT YOUR HANDS, AND OF THEIR OWN ORPHANING WHEN THEIR MOTHER SACRIFICED HERSELF FOR THEM...

...AS WELL AS OF WHAT HAPPENED IN THE MONTHS AND YEARS WHICH FOLLOWED :"

YOUNG TORR GROWS STRAIGHT AND TALL, EH?

NO TALLER THAN TARRA, HUSBAND.

THEY'RE TWINS, AFTER ALL.

MAY WE GO OUT AND PLAY NOW, FELECIA?

AH, IF ONLY YOU COULD, CHILD!

BUT NO ONE DARES WALK ABROAD IN THE SHADOW OF DARKSPIRE CASTLE, AFTER THE NIGHT-BELL HAS SOUNDED, AND--

BONG BONG

LISTEN! IT TOLLS--AND ALL MUST OBEY THE CURFEW, THIS NIGHT AS EVERY NIGHT FOR FIVE YEARS NOW--!

"AND WE KNOW FULL WELL WHY FREEMAN AND SLAVE ALIKE WERE FORCED TO HIDE THEIR FEARFUL HEADS INDOORS FROM DUSK TO DAWN, DO WE NOT, TYRANNUS?

"TO FORESTALL POSSIBLE REBELLION AGAINST YOUR RULE, YOU BADE ME UNLEASH TWO SWORD-WIELDING NETHER DEMONS EACH DAY AS THE SUN DIED BURNING IN THE WEST...

"...DEMONS WHO COULD NOT BE PERCEIVED BY HUMAN EYE...

"...YET WHO APPEARED TO THE CRINGING POPULACE AS A SINISTER MIST WHICH SNAKED ITS WAY THROUGH STREET AND ALLEYWAY OF THE CITY BELOW...

"...BRINGING A HIDEOUS DEATH TO ALL WHO COULD NOT REACH HOME AND HEARTH IN TIME!

"AND SO, UNKNOWING, YOU HAVE REIGNED FOR NIGH A SCORE OF YEARS, THINKING YOURSELF SAFE FROM THE PROPHECY REVEALED TO ME IN A MAGICAL TRANCE...

"...RIDING LIKE A HELMETED DEITY AMONG YOUR QUIVERING SUBJECTS.

"WHILE, WITHIN ONE OF THOSE HOVELS..."

IF ONLY WE DARED REVEAL THEIR *TRUE* SELVES, FELECIA --INSTEAD OF HIDING THEIR GOLDEN LOCKS BENEATH THAT CRUDE, DARK *DYE*--

THEY'RE BUT *CHILDREN*, GARTH--NOT *WARRIORS* LIKE THEIR SIRE.

--THE PEOPLE MIGHT RISE *AGAINST* TYRANNUS, AND BRING HIM *DOWN!*

WOULD YOU SEAL THEIR *DEATH WARRANTS?*

"HOW OFTEN YOU MUST HAVE PASSED CLOSE BY THOSE TWO DARK-HAIRED BRATS AS THEY GREW UP...

"...CONSIDERING THEM BENEATH YOUR ROYAL NOTICE.

"WHEN THEY WERE OF AN AGE TO UNDERSTAND SUCH THINGS, THEY WERE TOLD OF THEIR TRUE HERITAGE...

"...BUT STILL, HAVING NEVER KNOWN THEIR REAL PARENTS, THEY DID NOT HATE.

"THEY MERELY WORKED AT THE HOMELY TASKS THEIR PSEUDO-PARENTS SET FOR THEM, TILL ONE DAY QUITE RECENTLY--"

ROAR...!?

I--I HEARD IT, MY SISTER--CRIES FROM THE STREET BELOW!

IT SOUNDED LIKE--

LOOK!

IT--IT CAN'T BE--!

"IF I WERE A NORMAL MORTAL, MY KING, I MIGHT ALMOST SYMPATHIZE WITH THE TWO WIDE-EYED STRIPLINGS, AS THEY GAZED OUT THE WINDOW--

"--TO SEE THOSE THEY HAD CALLED MOTHER AND FATHER FOR SO LONG, LYING LIFELESS IN THE DIRT OF THE STREET.

"AND OVER THEIR BODIES, THE ARMORED FORM OF MALAVOL, YOUR CAPTAIN OF GUARDS...

"...THE MAN WHO HAD PRESIDED OVER THE SLAYING OF THEIR TRUE PARENTS SO MANY YEARS BEFORE."

LET THIS BE A *LESSON* TO ALL YOU PEASANTS!

CLEAR THE WAY WHEN THE *KING'S GUARDS* COME RIDING--OR SUFFER THE *CONSEQUENCES* OF YOUR FOLLY!

"HOW HORRIFIED AND SPEECHLESS THEY MUST HAVE BEEN, FOR AN ETERNAL MOMENT...

"...TORN BETWEEN WHAT THEY SAW, AND DESIRED TO DO...

"...AND THE YEARS OF ADMONITION FROM THEIR FOSTER PARENTS TO KEEP HIDDEN, AND GIVE NO OFFENSE TO THE KING OR HIS MEN.

"YET SO INGRAINED IN THEM WERE THE HABITS OF OBEDIENCE THAT NEITHER BOY NOR GIRL LIFTED A HAND AGAINST MALAVOL AT THAT MOMENT...

"...BUT MERELY EMBRACED THE POOR DEAD FIGURES, AS IF HOPING TO BREATH PRECIOUS LIFE BACK INTO THEM.

"AND SO IT MIGHT HAVE REMAINED, HAD MALAVOL POSSESSED THE GOOD SENSE TO KEEP HIS OWN MOUTH SHUT."

OH, FATHER... FATHER...!

MOTHER...

"BUT OF COURSE HE DID NOT."

YOU TWO! BE SURE THESE CARCASSES ARE BURIED AT ONCE...

FOR, I'LL BE RIDING BACK THROUGH HERE IN A LITTLE WHILE...

...AND I WOULDN'T WANT MY VALUABLE NEW STEED TO STUMBLE OVER SUCH PEASANT CARRION!

WHAT IN THE NAME OF *ALL THE GODS--?*

WOK!

WHO *THREW* THAT STONE?? *SPEAK!*

DON'T TRY TO *HIDE* OR I'LL BURN DOWN THE WHOLE *CITY*, TILL I FIND-

I THREW IT, YOU LAPDOG TO A MURDEROUS *TYRANT!*

NO! 'T WAS *I!*

TARRA--*NO!* YOU'LL JUST GET YOURSELF *KILLED*--LIKE *THEY* WERE!

DO YOU THINK I *CARE*--WHILE THE MAN WHO SLEW GARTH AND FELICIA *LIVES?*

"CONSIDER THE IRONY, MY KING: IF NOT FOR THIS PETTY INCIDENT, THE DISGUISED TWINS MIGHT HAVE LIVED ALL THEIR LIVES, WITHOUT STRIKING A BLOW IN VENGEANCE.

"BUT NOW, WITH A HASTY BLOWING OF HIS SHRILL WHISTLE--

IF IT'S *DEATH* YOU COURT, WHELPS --THEN DEATH SHALL YOU BOTH *HAVE!*

"--MALAVOL MADE THAT IMPOSSIBLE."

STRIKE, MEN! THIS BLOW AT MY HONOR MUST BE PUNISHED!

THEY'RE MERE STRIPLINGS, CAPTAIN! WE'LL CUT THEM WITHOUT MUCH TROUBLE.

READY, TARRA?

READY, DEAR BROTHER!

"THE PEASANT CALLED BARTH, HOWEVER, HAD BEEN A WANDERING ACROBAT IN HIS YOUTH AS WELL AS A MASTER THIEF...

"...AND HE HAD TAUGHT BOTH HIS FOSTER-CHILDREN WELL...

"...TOO WELL, IN FACT, FOR THE UNFORTUNATE MALAVOL...

"...WHO BROKE HIS NECK, NEXT MOMENT, WHEN THE BOY TRIPPED HIS CHARGER.

"FUGITIVES NOW, THE PAIR BECAME THIEVES.. AND THUS CAME TO PASS WHERE WE NOW BEHOLD THEM, MY KING. THEY--"

"THE FLAMES THEY PLUNGE THROUGH DO NOT SEEM TO HARM THEM. I MUST TALK WITH THEM, KONJURO!"

"AS YOU WISH, ROYAL TYRANNUS. SPEAK. .AND THEY SHALL INSTANTLY HEAR."

HEED MY WORDS, YE POOR OFF-SPRING OF MY MOST FA THFUL WARRIOR, MY MOST BELOVED FRIEND, TARR!

SISTER! THAT VOICE--IT SEEMS TO COME FROM EVERYWHERE--YET FROM INSIDE MY OWN BRAIN--!

I HEAR IT, TOO.

AND FROM THE WORDS IT SPEAKS --THERE'S ONLY ONE MAN IT CAN BE--!

AYE, CHILDREN! I AM TYRANNUS--AND I SPEAK TO YOU AS A FRIEND, WHO HAS SEEN THE FOLLY OF HIS WAYS.

KONJURO SAYS THAT IF YOU WILLINGLY SURRENDER YOUR OWN WILLS TO HIS, HE CAN DRAW YOU BACK FROM THE INFERNO INTO WHICH YOU HAVE RASHLY HURLED YOURSELVES.

DO SO, I PRAY YOU... FOR YOUR OWN SAKES!

TYRANNUS!

THE MAN WHO SLEW OUR TRUE FATHER--

--AND HOUNDED OUR MOTHER TO HER DEATH!

TOO TRUE, ALAS.. BUT A MAN NOW VASTLY CHANGED AND REPENTANT, AND WILLING TO SHARE HIS THRONE WITH THOSE HE WRONGED IN HIS TRAGIC YOUTH!

DO NOT DOOM YOURSELVES WITH FOOLISH ACTIONS-- WHEN I OFFER YOU TWO-THIRDS OF A TRIPLE CROWN!

Y-YOU EXPECT US-- TO TRUST YOU!?

YOU--WHO, THEY SAY, MURDERED EVEN HIS OWN ROYAL FATHER?

WHAT MEANS THAT TO YOU, COMPARED TO THE RICHES AND POWER I WILL GRANT YOU?

THINK OF WHAT I OFFER--COMPARED TO WHAT LIES BELOW, EVEN IF YOU SURVIVE YOUR FALL!

THINK, MY DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS-- THINK!

AND, BECAUSE THEY ARE ONLY HUMAN, AFTER ALL, TARRA AND TORR DO INDEED THINK--AND THEY REMEMBER THIS NIGHT'S STRANGE DOINGS--

--THE ADVENTURE IN KONJURO'S LONELY TOWER, FROM WHICH THEY FLED, PURSUED BY A THING FROM BEYOND.

THEY REMEMBER THE GHOST-LIKE MENTORR WHO APPEARED, AND BADE THEM SEEK OUT THE SWORD OF ULTIMATE SORCERY--

--DOWN A DARK-YAWNING PIT WHICH LED DOWN TO THE PLACE CALLED EARTHWORLD.

IT WAS, THE MENTORS SAID, BUT THE FIRST OF FOUR WORLDS THE YOUNG THIEVES MUST FOLLOW IN PURSUIT OF WHATEVER DESTINY IS HELD IN STORE FOR THEM.

YET WHAT A WORLD IT TURNED OUT TO BE!

TWELVE SEPARATE AND INTERCONNECTED CHAMBERS, EACH LORDED OVER BY A LIVING INCARNATION OF A ZODIAC SYMBOL--

--WHO EITHER ATTACKED OR AIDED THE YOUTHFUL SIBLINGS ON THEIR QUEST FOR THE MYSTIC SWORD.

STILL TORR AND TARRA PERSEVERED--AND EVENTUALLY TRIUMPHED--

-GAINING NOT THE SWORD, BUT AT LEAST THE ZODIACAL TALISMAN WITH IT--

- A TALISMAN WHICH HAD METAMORPHOSED, IN TURN, INTO TWIN SWORDS FOR TWIN ADVENTURERS!

SUCH ARE TORR'S AND TARRA'S THOUGHTS AS

WELL, MY YOUNG FRIENDS? HAVE YOU CONSIDERED MY GENEROUS OFFER?

AYE, TYRANNUS-- AND WE HURL IT BACK IN YOUR TEETH!

WE'LL MAKE NO DEALS WITH THE SLAYERS OF ALL THOSE WHO LOVED US!

FOR ONCE, BROTHER, YOU'RE NO MORE IMPETUOUS THAN I'D BE!

SO BE IT! BUT KNOW YOU THAT MY DEMONS SHALL DOG YOUR TRAIL, WHILE YOU SEEK THE SWORD OF ULTIMATE SORCERY--

--AND EVEN IF YOU FIND IT, IT WILL EVENTUALLY WIND UP IN MY ROYAL HANDS, WHERE IT BELO--

MILORD K NG..

MY SPELL FADES AS THEY PASS FURTHER INTO THE WORLD BELOW, AND THEY CAN NO LONGER HEAR YOU.

CURSE THOSE INFERNAL MEDDLERS, MENTORR AND MENTARRA -MY FORMER COUNCILORS!

IT WAS THEY WHO FORGED THAT MAGICAL SWORD--

AND NOW, EVEN THOUGH THEY HAVE ENTERED AN ETHEREAL STATE, IT SEEMS THEY HOLD IT OVER YOUR HEAD, EH, MY KING?

GIVE UP NOT SO EASILY! THE WAY BEFORE THE YOUNG THIEVES IS LONG AND HARD... AND THEY MAY YET FALTER AND FAIL... AND DIE.

IF THEY DON'T, KONJURO, I DEPEND UPON YOU TO FIND STILL ANOTHER WAY TO REACH AND DESTROY THEM

FOR IF I FALL BEFORE THEM AND THE SWORD-- SO SHALL YOU!

AS, NO LONGER WITHIN EVEN SORCEROUS EAR-SHOT OF THE USURPER OF DARKSPIRE

BY THE GODS! THE FLAMES DON'T REALLY BURN US-- EVEN SLOW OUR FALL --BUT IT SEEMS WE'VE BEEN DESCENDING FOREVER.

IT'S NO MERE LAND OF FLAME WE ENTER, TORR-- BUT OF WIZARDRY AND WONDER.

IN FACT, IT SEEMS OUR DOWNWARD PLUNGE IS ABOUT TO END--

--BUT I DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S A CAUSE FOR *REJOICING* OR *DESPAIRING!*

SHADES OF A THOUSAND SPIRITS!

GENTLE IF STIFLINGLY HOT WINDS SEEM TO BUOY THE STARTLED PAIR TO A FEATHER-SOFT LANDING...

--IN THE SCARLET WORLD CALLED--

FIREWORLD! AND NEVER WAS A PLACE MORE APTLY NAMED!

VOLCANOES--BLAZING GEYSERS--RIVERS OF LAVA--AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE!

WE'LL PASS OUT FROM THIS TERRIBLE HEAT--UNLESS WE FIND A COOLER SPOT, AND QUICKLY.

WE'D BETTER TALK THIS OVER, AND FIGURE OUT WHICH DIRECTION WE SHOULD--

NO TIME FOR THAT!

THIS WAY LIES AS OPEN AS ANY! COME ON!

WAIT! THAT PATH LOOKS EVEN WORSE TO--

WILL YOU QUIT ARGUING AND FOLLOW ME?

I WILL NOT!

YOU'RE CONSTANTLY ORDERING ME AROUND--AND I'M SICK AND TIRED OF IT, DO YOU HEAR ME?

I DON'T CLAIM TO KNOW WHICH WAY IS SAFER, OR COOLER, OR WHATEVER--

--BUT I'M GOING THIS WAY, AND YOU CAN DECIDE IF YOU WANT TO FOLLOW ME FOR A CHANGE!

TO BLAZES WITH YOU THEN!

I'LL GO MY OWN WAY!

YET, AS TARRA'S LITHE FORM VANISHES FROM VIEW...

NOW, WHAT MADE ME *PICK A FIGHT* WITH HER THAT WAY?

WELL, NOTHING TO BE DONE FOR IT *NOW.*

MY ONLY HOPE IS TO *FIND* THE SWORD, WHEREVER IT FELL--

--THEN USE IT TO *FIND* HER, AND GET US BOTH *OUT* OF HERE--

--BEFORE WE *BOTH* PERISH OF THIS HORRIBLE *HEAT!*

WELL, WELL, *WELL...!*

HERMINUS, OLD THIEF, IT SEEMS YOU WERE *RIGHT* TO FOLLOW THOSE TWO CUBS!

ONE OF THEM'S LIKELY TO FIND THE *SWORD OF ULTIMATE SORCERY* YOU'VE BEEN SEEKING FOR SO LONG.

'TWILL THEN BE *NO TRICK* FOR A *PROFESSIONAL* THIEF LIKE YOURSELF TO WREST IT FROM THOSE *AMATEURS.*

BUT... *WHICH* TO FOLLOW?

WHAT SAY WE LET THE *GODS* DECIDE?

SOON AFTERWARD, UPON THE LEFTWARD PATH CHOSEN BY THE HEADSTRONG TORR...

SO HOT--AND GETTING HOTTER EVERY MINUTE!

CAN'T SEE FAR ENOUGH AHEAD TO KNOW IF I TOOK THE RIGHT PATH OR NOT!

WHY DID I GET SO PUSHY WITH TARRA, ANYWAY?

WE SHOULD'VE STUCK TOGETHER, NOT SEPARATED.

TOO LATE NOW, THOUGH. MY WAY BACK IS ALREADY BLOCKED BY FIRE AND LAVA.

GOT TO KEEP GOING--FIND THE SWORD, AND THEN TARRA, BEFORE-

GODS! NOW THE FLAMES ARE SHOOTING UP BEFORE ME, AS WELL!

OH, MENTORS--WHERE ARE YOU, NOW THAT I REALLY NEED YOU??

WAIT! I JUST REMEMBERED--THE ZODIACAL TALISMAN THAT WE RECEIVED ALONG WITH OUR BLADES!

WE KEPT THEM WHEN WE JUMPED, AND PERHAPS--

YOU ARE CORRECT, TORR.

MENTARRA IS EVEN NOW APPEARING TO YOUR WANDERING SISTER--

--BUT MENTOR MAY BE OF SMALL SERVICE TO YOU.

I HAD NO IDEA I COULD SUMMON YOU--ONCE I REACHED FIREWORLD!

ONCE AND ONCE ONLY IN EACH OF THE FOUR WORLDS OF THE ELEMENTS CAN YOU CALL UPON US, LAD.

THIS IS THAT TIME. SPEAK!

C-CAN YOU TAKE ME TO THE SWORD-- OR TO TARRA?

THAT IS A WAY YOU MUST FIND FOR YOURSELF, ALAS.

THEN SHOW ME SOMETHING COOL TO QUENCH MY THIRST, I BEG OF YOU.. BEFORE I PERISH!

AH, NOW AT LEAST YOU HAVE ASKED THE PROPER QUESTION--WHICH ALONE IS HALF THE STRUGGLE TO FINDING THE ANSWER.

I SHALL SHOW YOU WHAT YOU ASK, TORR--

--AYE, AND SO VERY MUCH MORE--

--IN THE CHALICE OF LIGHT!

IT-IT'S TRULY A THING OF BEAUTY, MENTOR!

BUT WHERE IS IT? HOW CAN I REACH IT AND QUENCH MY THIRST--SO I CAN STAY ALIVE LONG ENOUGH TO FIND TARRA AND THE SWORD?

YOU WILL FIND IT WHEN YOU BECOME THE *MIGHTIEST WARRIOR* IN THIS WORLD--AND NOT *BEFORE.*

YET, IF AND WHEN YOU *DRINK* OF THE CHALICE OF LIGHT, NOT ONLY SHALL YOU KNOW NO MORE *THIRST* IN THIS FIERY PLACE--

--BUT YOU WILL BE *IMMUNE* TO HER FLAMES, AND THUS WILL *CONQUER!*

NOW, I MUST *DEPART...!*

HOLD IT! DON'T GO! I'M NOT *THROUGH* WITH--

BLAST! I SHOULD'VE KNOWN --*NOBODY* KEEPS MENTOR AROUND WHEN HE DECIDES IT'S TIME TO *GO.*

JUST *SEEING* THAT CHALICE GAVE ME STRENGTH--AND *HOPE.*

I'LL *FIND* IT- AND I'LL *BECOME* THE GREAT WARRIOR MENTOR SA'D I MUST BE--

--FOR THE SAKE OF THE *REVENGE* WE SEEK--AND FOR *TARRA!*

MEANWHILE, HIS SISTER HAS LIKEWISE COMMUNICATED WITH THE FEMININE WRAITH MENTARRA, AND NOW--

THIS IS *ONE* TIME I WAS JUST AS STUPIDLY STUBBORN AS *TORR.*

I LET THE STIFLING *HEAT* IN THIS PLACE WARP MY *JUDGMENT.*

CAN'T GO *THAT* WAY --BUT MAYBE I'LL FIND RESPITE FROM THE HEAT IN THIS *CAVE.*

WH-*WHAT*--?

IT'S *NOT* REALLY A CAVE AT *ALL*--

--IT'S A TREASURE CHAMBER!

EVEN KONJURO'S SEA KEEP DIDN'T POSSESS SO MUCH GOLD--SO MANY SPARKLING JEWELS!

STILL, THEY WON'T GET ME THE CHALICE MENTARRA TOLD ME ABOUT.

I'VE GOT TO BECOME A WARRIOR IF I WANT TO QUENCH MY THIRST--LET ALONE TRIUMPH!

THIS SWORD --SO MUCH LOVELIER THAN THE ONE I GAINED ABOVE--

AND THIS ARMOR! PERHAPS IT'S TIME I LOOKED NO MORE LIKE A STARVELING THIEF--

--AND MORE LIKE THE DAUGHTER OF THE GREATEST WARRIOR OF THE OUTER WORLD.

NO--NOT JUST HIS DAUGHTER--BUT A WARRIOR IN MY OWN RIGHT!

THIS ARMOR- SHIELD --SWORD--SO RICH AND GLEAMING--I FEEL I REALLY COULD CONQUER THIS WORLD OF FIRE!

STILL HOT, THOUGH--SO THIRSTY! I'D BETTER FIND THE CHALICE QUICKLY, BEFORE--

EH?

WHAT'S THAT--IN THAT SECOND CHAMBER BEYOND, FRAMED BY A CRIMSON BLAZE?

IT'S A UNICORN-- CARVED OF GOLD, LIKE MY ARMOR!

SOME-THING... DRAWS ME TOWARD IT.

I CAN'T RESIST..

.. AND WHY SHOULD I WANT TO?

B-BY THE GODS--

IT'S ALIVE!!

NEXT MOMENT, IT SEEMS AS IF TREASURE CHAMBER, PROFUSELY-SCATTERED WEALTH, AYE, EVEN FIREWORLD ITSELF, HAVE ALL BUT VANISHED FROM TARRA'S FEVERED SIGHT--

--AS THE GLISTENING METALLIC STALLION BUCKS AND HEAVES, AS IF TO HURL ITS HUMAN RIDER TO A FIERY DEATH, A MILLION MILES BELOW AND AWAY!

AND TARRA HANGS ON-- FOR LIFE, FOR VENGEANCE--

--AND PERHAPS MOST OF ALL, FOR THE SAKE OF HER BROTHER TORR!

MEANWHILE, USING THE WORDS OF MENTORR AS THE FOUNDATION OF HIS ACTIONS, TORR HIMSELF HAS WANDERED INTO YET ANOTHER OF THE STRANGE CIRCULAR CHAMBERS WHICH SEEM TO DOT THE CRIMSON FACE OF FIREWORLD...

WARLOCKS AND WIZARDS! I CAME SEEKING A CHALICE TO DRINK FROM-- PERHAPS REFUGE FROM THE NUMBING HEAT--

--AND I'VE FOUND A WEIRDLING ALTAR INSTEAD!

WELL, MIGHT AS WELL SEARCH IT BEFORE I GO ON.

BUT I CAN'T IMAGINE WHOSE ALTAR IT COULD BE IN THIS DEVILISH PLACE...

FOR I'VE CERTAINLY SEEN NO ONE ABOUT!

LIKE HIS SISTER BEFORE HIM, TORR FINDS ARMOR ENOUGH TO EQUIP A SMALL ARMY.

A KING'S RANSOM WORTH OF SHIELDS AND SWORDS AND BREASTPLATES--AND ALL OF FINE CARVED SILVER!

IF I'M TO BECOME A WARRIOR--MAYBE 'T WAS MEANT THAT I FIND SUCH ARMOR

AND IF NOT--WHY, I'M STILL CALLED A THIEF BACK IN TYRANNUS' KINGDOM, AFTER ALL.

THIS HELMET--INDEED, ALL THE ARMOR--FITS ME LIKE A WELL-TAILORED GLOVE!

IT'S AN OMEN, ALL RIGHT--AND WHO AM I TO DISREGARD AN OMEN?

THE BOWS AND ARROWS I CAN DO WITHOUT--THEY'RE THE WEAPONS OF COWARDS AND WEAKLINGS, BUT--

WHAT--?

LOATHSOME *MONSTERS*, ALL AFLAME AND LEAPING FROM OUT OF THE VERY *FIRE*!

AND WHERE ELSE SHOULD *FIRE-GOBLINS* DWELL, PRAY?

OOME! PUT DOWN YOUR *WEAPONS*, AND WE'LL TAKE YOU *HOME* WITH US TO *SEE*, EH?

NO? WELL, THEN, STRIPLING, IF YOU'LL NOT COME *WILLINGLY*--!

BALLS OF FLAME-- LEAPING FROM THEIR VERY *FINGERTIPS*!

ONLY MY *SILVER SHIELD* SAVES ME FROM THEM, EVEN FOR THE *MOMENT*--

FFFT

--AND MY *SWORD*--

IT MELTED AT THEIR TOUCH--LIKE AN ICICLE UNDER THE SUMMER SUN!

NOW YOU COME PLAY WITH US, INTRUDER FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD?

SURE! WHEN THIS PLACE FREEZES OVER!

NO SWORD--AND MY KNIFE SURE ISN'T GOING TO STOP THOSE THINGS.

THIS BOW--MAYBE IT'S NOT SUCH A SISSY WEAPON, AFTER ALL!

BUT--THE ARROWHEADS ARE ALL MADE OF--ICE!

THEY'LL PROBABLY TURN TO STEAM LONG BEFORE THEY HIT THOSE GOBLINS.

OH, WELL ...BEGGARS CAN'T BE CHOOSERS...

AND RIGHT ABOUT NOW, NEITHER CAN THIEVES!

TOGETHER NOW, MY BROTHER! WE MUST--

THE FIRE-GOBLINS CRY IS CUT OFF IN MID-SHOUT, HOWEVER, AS--TO TORR'S GREAT SHOCK--THE ICE-ARROW STRIKES HOME--

WHISH

AND WHEN CLOUDS OF STEAM AND SMOKE HAVE BLOWN AWAY--

WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW!? HE'S FROZEN STIFF!

ALL RIGHT--YOU FUGITIVES FROM A FIREPLACE--COME AHEAD!

THE SNOW-SHOE'S ON THE OTHER FOOT NOW, ISN'T IT?

GOOD! THEY'RE ALL FLEEING--THOSE WHO STILL CAN, ANYWAY.

I DIDN'T CARE MUCH FOR ICING YOU DOWN, OLD BUDDY, BUT YOU OUGHT TO BE MORE HOSPIT-ABLE TO STRANGERS

YOU'LL PROBABLY MELT BACK TO NORMAL IN A LITTLE WHILE--

--BUT I WON'T BE HERE TO SEE IT.

I WILL SAY THIS, THOUGH-

--EVEN WHEN YOUR MOUTH'S AS DRY AS THE DESERT, VICTORY STILL TASTES SWEET!

ELSEWHERE, A YOUTHFUL FIGURE WITH ARMOR TO MATCH HER GOLDEN TRESSES SITS ASTRIDE A GALLOPING UNICORN WITH MANE LIKE FIRE ..

WELL, AT LEAST IT'S STOPPED TRYING TO TOSS ME INTO THE LAVA, THANK HELIOS FOR SMALL FAVORS!

IT EVEN RESPONDS TO MY COMMANDS ALREADY, AND--

WAIT! WHAT'S THAT?!

IS IT JUST THAT OVERWHELMING HEAT GETTING TO ME--BAKING ME INSIDE THIS ARMOR--

--OR IS THAT A MAN LYING THERE, UPON THAT BIER IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS LAKE OF LAVA?

AYE, THAT IT IS--UNLESS THE HEAT'S DRIVEN ME BALMY!

A HANDSOME LAD, TOO--FULL OF MANLY BEAUTY--A STRANGE SORT OF HARMONY ABOUT HIS FEATURES, SOMEHOW.

I FEEL--I'VE SEEN HIM BEFORE, SOMEWHERE--BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

I...DON'T KNOW QUITE WHY...

...BUT I CAN'T RESIST KISSING HIM.

AH! HE'S WAKING UP!

I HOPE HE WON'T MIND THAT I--

MIND, LASS?!

RESIST? NAY--I WANT TO KISS HIM!

NAY, WHY SHOULD I MIND--

--WHEN IT WAS I WHO PUT THE VERY IDEA INTO YOUR MIND?!

BY THE GODS!

THE MAN I KISSED-- HE'S TURNED INTO SOME KIND OF TENTACLED MONSTER--

--IF HE WAS EVER TRULY HUMAN AT ALL!

--AND TARRA HAS FAR MORE PRESSING CONCERNS:

HERE'S WHERE I FIND OUT IF THIS FANCY SWORD I TRADED MY OLD ONE FOR IS GOOD FOR ANYTHING BESIDES SHOW!

I'M SORRY TO DO THIS LASS-- REALLY I AM.

BUT I SEEK THE SWORD OF ULTIMATE SORCERY, TOO, YOU KNOW!

THEN, THE MASTER THIEF IS GONE--

I HOPE YOU WON'T OBJECT TO MY BORROWING YOUR HORNED STEED, DEAR CHILD.

SOMEHOW, YOU DON'T LOOK AS IF YOU'LL BE NEEDING HIM AGAIN.

HERMINUS!

CAN'T-- GET FREE! CHOKING ME-- I CAN'T--

HOLD! WHAT'S THAT MOVEMENT OVER THERE-- NEAR MY MOUNT?

APPARENTLY NOT!

SKRAK

THE OCTOPOID'S STRENGTH! MY OWN'S LIKE A CHILD'S BESIDE IT!

IT'S DRAWING ME TOWARD IT--INTO ITS GAPING MAW!

MY SHIELD--IT'S MY ONLY CHANCE!

YYAARRG

I--I DID IT!

IT'S HUGE JAWS CRUSHED THE SHIELD --SHATTERED IT-- BUT THE JAGGED EDGES ARE HURTING ITS SOFT INSIDES!

IT'S SCUTTLING BACK INTO THE MOLTEN LAVA WHERE IT MUST LIVE!

IF ITS BRAIN HADN'T DISTRACTED IT--IT WOULD HAVE TAKEN ME WITH IT!

THE MONSTER MUST HAVE READ MY MIND SOMEHOW--USED AN IMAGE OF MANLY BEAUTY BURIED THERE--TO LURE ME.

WELL, I SURVIVED ITS ATTACK- JUST BARELY--

--BUT I LOST MY UNICORN-- MY WEAPONS-- EVERYTHING!

STILL SO HOT--AND WEARIER THAN EVER-- BUT I CAN'T GO ON WITHOUT A SWORD.

MUST GO BACK TO THE CHAMBER OF SPLENDOR-- FOR MY OLD ONE-

--AND IF IT ISN'T THERE--I'M IN DEEP TROUBLE!

AS, ON ANOTHER OF THE MYRIAD ROCK-BRIDGES WHICH FORM THE SOLE ROADWAYS OF FIREWORLD...

SO! I THOUGHT YOU TWO FIRE-GOBLINS HAD ALL GONE SKITTERING BACK INTO THE LAVA POOL.

TOO SCARED EVEN FOR THAT, HUH?

WELL, YOU'RE GOING TO WISH YOU'D TAKEN A SWAN DIVE INTO THE LAVA--

WHEN THIS ICE ARROW TURNS YOU BOTH INTO SO MUCH UGLY SCULPTURE!

PLEASE-- D-DON'T HURT US, MASTER!

WE JUST W-WANTED TO PROTECT OUR L-LAND!

D-PLEASE--!

OH, THANK YOU, MASTER! WE--

NOW DON'T GET MAUDLIN ON ME OR I'M LIABLE TO CHANGE MY MIND.

GET AWAY FROM THERE! YOU WANT TO SET MY BOOTS ON FIRE?

DON'T KNOW WHY I SHOWED YOU GUYS ANY MERCY - UNLESS IT'S BECAUSE I'M NOT USED TO WINNING FIGHTS.

IF YOU REALLY WANT TO SHOW ME SOME GRATITUDE--

-YOU CAN POINT ME TO MY SISTER TARRA- OR THE CHALICE OF LIGHT--

--OR JUST A PLAIN DRINK OF--

EH--?

WATER!

BY THE GODS, THIS FEELS GOOD--AND COOL! IT'S NOT THE CHALICE OF LIGHT, BUT IT'LL DO.

JUST HOPE TARRA'S FOUND SOMEPLACE LIKE IT! IF ANYTHING'S HAPPENED TO HER--

DO YOU ALWAYS TALK TO YOURSELF THIS WAY, BOY?

YOU!?

I KNOW YOU! YOU'RE THAT THIEF CALLED HERMINUS!

YOU TRIED TO GET MY SISTER AND ME KILLED--BACK IN EARTHWORLD.

GET DOWN OFF THAT FANCY HORSE, AND I'LL--

AFTER ALL, IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW, I'VE BEEN SEEKING THE SWORD OF ULTIMATE SORCERY A LOT LONGER THAN YOU TWO HAVE.

AND, THOUGH I'LL ADMIT I WOULDN'T MIND QUENCHING MY CONSIDERABLE THIRST AT THAT FOUNTAIN--

I'VE REALLY NO TIME, BOY.

MAYBE YOU GUYS ARE MY GOOD-LUCK CHARM AFTER ALL, AND--

NOW WHERE'D THEY GO? OH WELL, LIVE AND LET LIVE, I ALWAYS SAY.

--BUT I DON'T THINK I'LL *SETTLE* TILL I FIND THE SAME *CHALICE* YOU'RE LOOKING FOR!

WAIT! HOW'D YOU LATCH ONTO--A *UNICORN THAT FLIES?*

WE *MASTER THIEVES* DON'T DIVULGE OUR SECRETS TO *RANK AMATEURS*, BOY.

FARE YOU *WELL!*

THAT GUY'D STEAL THE *COINS* OFF A DEAD MAN'S EYES!

NICE-LOOKING *UNICORN*, THOUGH. WISH I HAD--

HUH??

THERE'S SOMETHING AT THE *BOTTOM* OF THE FOUNTAIN -- SOME KIND OF ROLLED-UP *PARCHMENT!*

DON'T LIKE WASTING TIME WHEN I MIGHT BE LOOKING FOR *TARRA* OR THE *SWORD.*

BUT WHO *KNOWS?* THE WAY THINGS *GO* IN THIS UNDER-GROUND WORLD...

... MAYBE THAT *SCROLL* WILL TELL ME HOW TO *FIND* THEM

BESIDES, A FAST, COOL *DIP* WOULD SURE FEEL *GOOD* RIGHT ABOUT NOW.

A FEW MINUTES AGO, MY *TONGUE* WAS HANGING OUT LIKE A *DOG'S* FROM THE HEAT...

AND *NOW...*

OH NO!

SOME KIND OF GIGANTIC REPTILE --IT MUST'VE BEEN LYING IN WAIT BENEATH THE FOUNTAIN FLOOR!

IT'S GOT MY LEG-- PULLING ME DOWN--!

GLOMP!

IN THE MEANTIME, ROKK'S GOLD-HAIRED TWIN HAS RETRIEVED A SECOND OUTFITTING FROM THE CHAMBER OF SPLENDOR, AND.

SPEAK OF THE DEVIL!

THERE'S A FULL SUIT OF ARMOR--HANGING ON THAT BLAZING TREE--

--AND IT LOOKS AS IF IT WOULD FIT ME PERFECTLY!

NO! WHAT IN THE NAME OF THIS TERRIBLE HEAT AM I THINKING OF?

NOW I GET IT! THIS PLACE JUST THROWS ONE TEMPTATION AFTER ANOTHER AT YOU--LIKE THE "SLEEPING PRINCE" BEFORE, AND NOW THIS--

--TAKING IMAGES FROM MY MIND, AND USING THEM TO DISARM ME!

THINGS SHOULD GO A BIT MORE SMOOTHLY FROM HERE ON

MAYBE I COULD JUST--

THIS TIME, I CHOOSE MY WEAPONS FOR STURDINESS, NOT SHEEN.

TOO BAD THERE WASN'T A SECOND SUIT OF ARMOR LYING AROUND. BUT--

BY THE GODS!

I'D TAKE OFF THIS BIT OF ARMOR, AND THEN BE TOTALLY UNPROTECTED IF--

OHHHHH

THAT BLAST OF HEAT! WH-WHERE'D IT COME FROM?

SKRAWWWK

I HAD TO ASK!2

--BUT THAT LAST PASS BY THE HAWK-- LEFT ME SO FAINT-- FROM IT'S SHEER, UNRELENTING HEAT!

ANOTHER ONE LIKE IT-- AND I'M DONE FOR--

WELL, AT LEAST THIS ARMOR'S PROTECTING ME BETTER THAN THE OTHER DID--

THIS PLACE NEVER GIVES UP, DOES IT?

UNICORNS-- HYPNOTIC OCTOPOIDS-- AND NOW THIS FIRE-HAWK!

--UNLESS I TAKE THE BULL BY THE *HORNS*--

OR IN THIS CASE, THE *BIRD* BY THE *BEAK*--

--AND SEE IF THIS *FEATHERED FIRE-BALL* WILL OBEY A *RIDER* AS READILY AS THE *UNICORN* DID.

WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW? IT *DOES!*

MAYBE I *AM* ON MY WAY TO BECOMING THE *WARRIOR* MENTARRA TALKED ABOUT, AFTER *ALL!*

BEST THING IS-- FROM UP HERE, MAY-BE I CAN CATCH A GLIMPSE OF *TORR*, IF HE'S-

HUH? THOSE WEIRD LITTLE *CREATURES* BELOW--GESTUR-ING FRANTICALLY AT ME, AS IF THEY'RE TRYING TO *TELL* ME SOMETHING!

BETTER TAKE A *LOOK* OVER WHERE THEY'RE--

BY DARKSPIRE'S WALLS --IT'S *TORR!*

AND IT LOOKS AS IF HE'S IN *DEEP TROUBLE!*

MY BLAZING *BIRDIE* WON'T BE ABLE TO FOLLOW WHEN HE AND THAT THING GO *UNDERWATER* AGAIN--

--SO I'D BETTER DIVE FOR IT, AND HOPE THIS ARMOR IS AS LIGHT AS IT FEELS!

TOO BAD! I COULD'VE GROWN TO LIKE TRAVELING BY FIRE-HAWK.

WELL, I WAS DESPERATE FOR WATER-- AND IT LOOKS LIKE I GOT MY WISH!

UNLESS THIS IS ANOTHER OF FIREWORLD'S EERIE ILLUSIONS!

BUT NO! THE OTHER IMAGES SHOWED ME THINGS I WANTED TO SEE--

--NOT THINGS LIKE TORR IN DANGER!

GOT TO MAKE THAT LIZARD, OR WHATEVER IT IS, LET GO OF TORR!

NOTHING LIKE THE DIRECT APPROACH!

GRONK

THIS ARMOR'S LIGHT, ALL RIGHT! I'M POPPING UP LIKE A CORK.

GOOD THING I DIDN'T TRADE IT IN.

TORR-- ARE YOU--?

I WON'T FEEL--LIKE GOING SWIMMING --FOR A WHILE-- BUT OTHERWISE--

SAME OLD BROTHER-OF-MINE, ALL RIGHT--THANK THE GODS!

GRAWRR

WELL? WHAT'S WRONG, TORR? AREN'T YOU GLAD TO SEE ME?

WHAT ARE YOU GAPING AT?

--BUT NOT THAT!

HSSSSS

YOU, SISTER-- YES--

WOULDN'T YOU JUST KNOW IT--IN A FIRE-HAPPY PLACE LIKE THIS--

--THAT THING WOULD BE A FIRE-BREATHER!?

TORR! WILL YOUR SHIELD--?

I DON'T KNOW!

BUT OUR ONLY HOPE--IS TO FIGHT FIRE--WITH FIRE--

--AND PRAY!

FROOSH!

IT--IT WORKED!

I DON'T KNOW IF THAT THING'S DEAD OR NOT - AND I DON'T MUCH CARE--

- AS LONG AS IT STAYS DOWN THERE, AND WE'RE UP HERE.

NOW, ABOUT THAT QUESTION YOU ASKED BEFORE, TARRA...

I HOPE THIS SHOWS YOU I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU!

OH, TORR, MY BROTHER--WE WERE MAD TO ARGUE!

WE'VE GOT TO STICK TOGETHER AGAINST THIS INSANE WORLD!

...SO THE WAY I FIGURE IT, I GAINED SOME SORT OF UNDERSTANDING OF FIREWORLD, AND THAT'S WHAT ENABLED ME TO MASTER THE FIRE HAWK.

I GOT A LITTLE BIT WISER MYSELF--WHEN I LEARNED I'M NOT THE BIG STRONG LONER I PRETENDED TO BE.

WE STILL DIDN'T FIND THE CHALICE, THOUGH, LET ALONE THE SWORD...

AND IF THIS GATEWAY IS ANY EVIDENCE--I'M NOT SURE WE'RE GOING TO!

IT'S LIKE A ROARING FURNACE--THE GREATEST INFERNO WE'VE ENCOUNTERED YET!

BUT NOW THAT OUR PATHS HAVE JOINED--OUR GOAL MUST BE JUST BEYOND IT! IT MUST!

WE CAN'T HAVE COME SO FAR, GOTTEN SO CLOSE--ONLY TO FAIL--

--CAN WE?

YOU DIDN'T LET ME *FINISH* BEFORE, TORR -- TELLING YOU ABOUT MY *UNDERSTANDING* OF FIREWORLD.

I MASTERED THE *FIRE-HAWK* BECAUSE I'D BEATEN THE *OCROPOID*, DON'T YOU SEE?

CONQUER *ONE* ASPECT OF THIS WORLD--AND YOU CONQUER IT *ALL!*

I'D HAVE STOOD UP TO THAT *DRAGON*, TOO--IF I HADN'T *PANICKED.*

BUT WHAT'S *THAT* GOT TO DO WITH-- *TARRA! STOP!*

NO! THE FLAMES *CAN'T* HURT ME--IF I DON'T *BELIEVE* THEY CAN!

FOLLOW ME, TORR! HURRY!

IT--IT'S *NO GOOD*, TARRA! THAT WAY *WOULDN'T* WORK FOR ME!

WAIT! I FORGOT ABOUT--THE *PARCHMENT!* MAYBE--THE *ANCIENT WISDOM* WRITTEN ON IT--

BUT--CAN I *READ* IT??

TORR'S *RIGHT!* HE COULDN'T HAVE COME WITH ME.

HE'D HAVE BEEN *BURNED* --EVEN IF I'M *NOT.*

MUST GO *ON*--FIND OUT WHAT'S AT THE *END* OF OUR JOURNEY!

THEN I'LL *GO BACK* FOR TORR, AND--

HOLD ON, TARRA! I'M COMING!

THAT PARCHMENT TOLD ME THE *PATHWAY* THROUGH THE FLAMES!

SOMEHOW, THE *WATER* I SWALLOWED BACK AT THAT WEIRD *FOUNTAIN* GAVE ME THE WISDOM TO--

HUH?!?

DON'T TELL ME--LET ME *GUESS*--!

THE *CHALICE OF LIGHT!*

JUST THINK, TORR--ONCE WE *DRINK* FROM IT, WE WON'T FEEL THE *HEAT* ANY MORE--WE WON'T FEEL ANY *THIRST!*

WE'LL HAVE *CONQUERED FIREWORLD,* JUST AS WE DID *EARTHWORLD*--

--AND BECOME THE *WARRIORS* OUR MENTORS *TOLD* US WE COULD BE!

I'LL DRINK TO THAT--A NICE LONG GULP OF WATER!

YES, AND ALL WITHOUT SLAYING ANYBODY TO GET TO IT, TOO!

AS A MATTER OF FACT--SO WILL I!

HUH? WHO--?

RRRRSH

THE CHALICE--IT SHATTERED INTO A MILLION PIECES!

THEN I'M BETTING--IT WASN'T THE REAL CHALICE OF LIGHT AT ALL!

AYE, LAD AND LASS--HERMINUS, AND DRINKING A JOLLY TOAST TO THE BOTH OF YOU!

FACT IS, I WAS QUITE THIRSTY, AND SINCE THIS TRUE CHALICE NEVER GETS EMPTY--

GIVE US THAT CHALICE, THIEF!

BUT OF COURSE! WHY NOT? I'VE DRUNK MY FILL... AND LEARNED ALL THAT'S TO BE LEARNED FROM IT

THIS IS WHAT HE MEANS, TORR. LOOK!

THERE--ON THE BOTTOM OF THE CHALICE--

THE IMAGE OF--A CROWN!

AH BUT YOU ARE A PERCEPTIVE WENCH, AREN'T YOU?

IT'S HERMINUS!

--I'M TOO WATER-LOGGED EVEN TO RUN FROM YOU!

THAT IT *IS*, MY HEARTIES! A CROWN THAT WAITS FOR *ME*-- IN THE *THIRD* WORLD WHERE HIDES THE *SWORD OF ULTIMATE SORCERY!*

HE'S *GETTING AWAY*--ON THAT WEIRD *UNICORN!*

LET HIM.

AFTER ALL, WE'VE GOT THE *CHALICE*, RIGHT?

AND IF WHAT HAPPENED IN *EARTHWORLD* WAS ANY CLUE, *IT* SHOULD BE THE KEY TO OUR *NEXT* DESTINATION.

I *GUESS* SO... BUT I DON'T *TRUST* THAT HERMINUS!

WHY SHOULD YOU? HE'S A *THIEF*, ISN'T HE--JUST LIKE *US!*

NOT LIKE US! WE'RE *WAR-RIORS* NOW, REMEMBER?

AND WE WANT THE SWORD TO DEFEAT *TYRANNUS*, NOT JUST BECAUSE IT'S *VALUABLE!* WE--

TARRA! SOMETHING'S HAPPENING-- TO THE *CHALICE!*

IT'S GETTING *BIGGER*-- RIGHT BE-FORE OUR *EYES!*

HUH? WHERE'D ALL THIS *WATER*--

--COME--

--FROM?

TORR! NOW I UNDERSTAND! WE'RE INSIDE THE CHALICE!

THE CHALICE ITSELF--WAS THE GATEWAY TO THE THIRD WORLD!

BUT THE SIDES OF THE CHALICE--THEY'RE FADING--AND THERE'S NO LAND ANYWHERE IN SIGHT!

WHERE IS THIS THIRD WORLD--WITH IT'S CROWN, AND THE SWORD OF ULTIMATE SORCERY?

WHERE?!?

DON'T YOU SEE, BROTHER? IF THE FIRST WORLD WAS INSIDE THE EARTH--AND THE SECOND WAS RINGED IN FIRE--

--THEN THIS WORLD IS ALL WATER!

OF COURSE! A WORLD FOR EACH OF THE PRIMAL ELEMENTS!

AND IF WE CAN'T GO BACK UP--OR EVEN SIDEWAYS--

RIGHT! THEN THE ONLY WAY TO GO IS--

--DOWN!

WELL, KONJURO?...

YOU TOLD ME THOSE WHELPS WOULD PERISH IN FIREWORLD--BUT YOU WERE WRONG! THEY LIVE!

NOT FOR LONG, MILORD KING. MY MAGIC WILL FOLLOW THEM THROUGH ALL FOUR WORLDS, IF NEED BE--

--TILL THEY MENACE OUR CAUSE NO MORE!

I ASSURE YOU, THE GOLD-TRESSED YOUNG THIEVES NAMED TORR AND TARRA SHALL FIND THEIR FINAL DOOM IN...

WATERWORLD!

IN SWORDQUEST BOOK 3 AVAILABLE SOON!

DID YOU MISS EARTHWORLD? HUSTLE DOWN TODAY TO YOUR FAVORITE ATARI CARTRIDGE DEALER AND GET SWORDQUEST #1: EARTHWORLD.

ATARI

CO19252